

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated May 16, 2007. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following remarks in response to the Office Action. Applicants have amended claim 1 and submit that such amendment does not fall within the restricted claims as the definition of devolatilizer nozzle inherently includes passing a volatile component therethrough.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

Claims 1-3, 26-28 and 50-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 64-47878 ('878). Claims 4-15, 19-21, 23-25, 29-40 and 44-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over '878.

Applicants submit that '878 does not teach, show or suggest forming a devolatilizer nozzle, as recited in the pending claims. In particular, Applicants submit that '878 does not teach, show or suggest a method of reducing the volatile content of polymers by passing a volatile component through the perforations in the devolatilizer nozzle, as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over '878 in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,007,761 (*Nakagawa*). The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the Office Action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

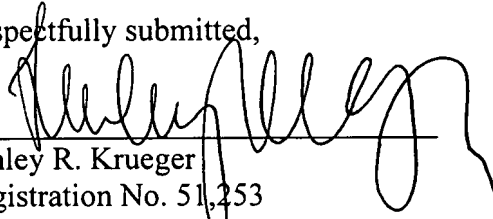
Claims 1-21 and 23-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of '878. Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of '878 and further in view of *Nakagawa*.

Applicants respectfully traverse that paragraphs 5-8 of the instant specification are admitted prior art. However, even if taken as prior art, such prior art is no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the Office Action.

Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of such proposed prior art is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tenley R. Krueger', written over a horizontal line.

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